

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, February 27. 1707.

I Put in my Oar into the Barque of State in my last Paper, farther than I use to do, in a Proposal for restoring and making Peace with the Duke of *Bavaria*; I shall speak to this Head a little largely here, and dismiss it for one more significant to our own Affairs.

I have always observ'd in Affairs of the World, whether publick or private, that to reclaim and recover an Enemy, has been better than to make him desperate; first beat him, then receive him: These are the prudent Councils, by which the most Politick Princes in the World have acted, and I shall descend a little to Particulars, which will make us sensible of it.

The Mareschal *De Cuiuat* in the former War had push'd the Duke of *Savoy* to the last Extremity, he had beaten him at the

Battle at *Marsaglia*, and overthrown his Army—What follow'd? He was entred the Plains of *Turin*, and having a victorious Army, he could have taken the City in much shorter Time, than the more numerous Army of the *French* have since taken up to do it, and yet miscarried in the Attempt.

In the midst of all this Success, he offer'd the Duke of *Savoy* such Terms, as gave afterwards the greatest Blow to the Confederate Interest, that could possibly have been struck, and by out bidding the Imperialists beat them more effectually, than three Victories in the World would have done; for the very same Summer the Duke of *Savoy*, in Conjunction with the *French*, forced the Imperialists to abandon *Piedmont*, and to capitulate for Leave to go out of the Country.

In the Case before us, the Emperor is able to out-bid all the World, to the Duke of *Bavaria* in particular, by restoring his Country, and placing him in a Condition, which must of Necessity bind him to him, as long as he lives; an Action, which in common Gratitude would make him his own, and bring him into the Confederacy; an Action that would certainly bring him and all his Forces to act against that very *French* Power, he has found so unable to protect him.

Should the Offer of restoring the Duke of *Bavaria* be once made to him by the Imperial Court, and the Duke accepting it, be once firmly settled in his Dominions, there would no more be any Apprehensions of a *Gothick* Foundation on that side, and the present *Dilemma* on Account of the Neighbourhood of the *Swedes* would be at an End; for the *Swede* could no sooner make any Attempt on that side, but the united Forces of the Empire would be engag'd against him, which now, by intollerable Distractions and Divisions, lies expos'd and disabled, either to resist common Violence, or act its proper Part in the present Confederacy.

I am no way concern'd here to decide the Justice of the Quarrel on one Part, or to call in Question the Imperial Process; 'tis needless for me to debate, whether the deposing the Elector of *Bavaria* be agreeable to the Constitution of the Empire, or built on the Laws of Empire in general.

I shall call in Question none of the Measures taken in this Affair, but such as are merely Political, and such as reach our own Share in this Matter; as a Branch of the Confederacy, and a Branch on whom not the least Part of the Burthen is like to fall by the Consequence of the thing.

'Tis certainly the Interest of this Part of the World, that the Empire may be fortified against any such Eruption, as may force

us to a second Adventure on the *Danube*; that it may be secur'd, if possible, from any such Disorder, as may interrupt the good Success of the Confederate Arms on this side, where we are in a fair way to oppress the *French* Power, if not prevented by some Thunder-Clap on that side. To make Peace with the *Bavarian*, would secure all things so effectually there, that the *Swedes* could have no Pretence to disturb the Empire, but what must be too bare-fac'd to be justified.

On the other hand, 'twould be an irretrievable Blow to the *French* Hopes, whose Dependence is too much on that side, and I wish, I could say, the Success was not too probable—— I am not fond of prophesying evil Tidings; but if a second *French* Army should appear in *Bavaria*; where the Country, I doubt, has not been very tenderly handled, and where an Opportunity to revenge themselves might be but too grateful to the People; and should this be but countenanced by the *Swedes*, who are now, as I may say, idle, and out of Employment, what may not the Consequence of such a Revolution in those Parts be, the Nakedness of all that Part at this Time especially being consider'd?

This is Part of the Reason, why I think, it would have been happy for the present Circumstance of Affairs, if that Breach could have been closed, before this Campaign was begun; and I think, the Circumstances and Hazards consider'd, no Terms could be so great, but they should have been granted, I mean, no reasonable Terms.

Nor can I think it a hard Matter to bring that Prince over, when so great a Bait as the restoring his Country is laid before him; of which more in the next Paper.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have digressed from the usual Subject a while, to enter here upon the projected Settlements and Relief of the Poor, now talk'd much of, and which my Absence from Particulars a little obstructs; however, as it has been always my way to begin at the Original of things, tho' I may seem to go about in it, I shall do so now; and I question not to prove, that we are just on the contrary Extreme to the Support of our Poor.

By Poor, I desire to be understood, not that we are a poor Nation in general; I should undervalue the Bounties of Heaven to England, and act with less Understanding, than most Men are Masters of, if I should not own, that in general we are as rich a Nation as any in the World; but by Poor, I mean, burthen'd with a Crowd of clamouring, unemploy'd, unprovided for, poor People, who make the Nation uneasie, burthen the rich, clog our Parishes, and make themselves worthy of Laws and peculiar Management to dispose and direct them; how these came to be thus, is the Question?

And first I shall lay down these Heads as fundamental Maxims, which I am ready at any time to defend and make out.

1. *There is in England more Labour than Hands to perform it, and consequently a Want of People, not of Employment.*

2. *No Man in England of sound Limbs and Senses can be poor, merely for Want of Work.*

3. *All our Work-houses, Corporations and Charities for employing the Poor and setting them to work, as now they are employ'd, or any Acts of Parliament to empower Overseers of Parishes, or Parishes themselves, to employ the Poor, except as shall be hereafter excepted, are and will be publick Nuisances, Mischiefs to the Nation, which serve to the Ruin of Families, and Encrease of the Poor.*

4. *That 'tis a Regulation of the Poor that is wanted in England, not a setting them to work.*

If after these things are made out, I am enquir'd of, what this Regulation should be; I am no more at a Loss to lay it down, than I am to affirm what is above, and shall always be ready when call'd to it, to make such a Proposal, as with Concurrence from those to whose Care it shall be committed, shall for ever stop the Poverty and Beggary, Parish Charges, Assessments, and the like, in this Nation.

If such Offers as these shall be slighted and rejected, I have the Satisfaction of having discharg'd my Duty, and the Consequence of it must be, that complaining will be continued in our Streets.

1. *I affirm, That in England there is more Labour than Hands to perform it.* This I prove.

2. *From the Dearness of Wages, which in England out-goes all Nations in the World, and I know no greater Demonstration in Trade. Wages, like Exchanges, rise and fall, as the Remitters and Drawers, the Employers and the Workmen, ballance one another,*

The Employers are the Remitters, the Workmen are the Drawers; if there are more Employers than Workmen, the Price of Wages must rise, because the Employer wants that Work to be done, more than the poor Man wants to do it; if there are more Workmen than Employers, the Price of Labour falls then; because the poor Man wants his Wages, more than the Employer wants to have his Business done.

Trade, like all Nature, most obsequiously obeys the Law of Course and Consequence, and this is the Occasion, why even all the greatest Articles of Trade follow, and as it were, pay Homage to this seemingly minute and inconsiderable thing, the poor Man's Labour.

I cannot but note, how from hence it appears; that the Glory, the Strength, the Riches, the Trade, and all that's valuable in a Nation, as to its Figure in the World, depends upon the Number of its People, be

be they never so mean or poor; the Consumption of Manufactures encreases the Manufacturers; the Number of Manufacturers encreases the Consumption; Provisions are consum'd to feed them, Land improv'd, and more Hands employ'd to furnish Provision: All the Wealth of the Nation, and all the Trade is produc'd by Numbers of People; but of this by the Way.

The Price of Wages, not only determines the Difference between the Employer and the Workman, but it rules the Rates of every Market. If Wages grow high, Provisions rise in Proportion; and I humbly conceive it to be a Mistake in those People, who say, Labour in such Parts of *England* is cheap, because Provisions are cheap; but 'tis plain, Provisions are cheap there, because Labour is cheap, and Labour is cheaper in those Parts than in others, because being remoter from *London*, there is not that extraordinary Disproportion between the Work and the Hands, and consequently the Labour is cheaper.

'Tis plain to any observing Eye, that there is an equal Plenty of Provisions in several of our *South* and *Western* Countries, as in *Yorkshire*, and rather a greater; and I believe, I could make it out, that a poor labouring Man may live as cheap in *Kent* or *Sussex*, as in the Bishoprick of *Durham*, and yet in *Kent* a poor Man shall earn 7 s. 9 d. 10 s. per Week, and in the *North* 4 s. or perhaps less; the Difference is plain in this, that in *Kent* there is a greater Want of People, in Proportion to the Work there, than in the *North*.

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